

May, 1999



Wastewater News

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Working towards Clean Water



Clean Water . . . a better environment
Office of Wastewater Management



UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

What is happening in May?

Go to the OW Calendar of Events site by clicking here:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/news.nfs/owcalendar?openview&Grid=4>

Upcoming Events

CWA 104(g)(1) Operator Assistance and Training Activities

National Meeting: The National Operator Trainers' Conference will be held from June 6 through the 9, 1999 in Providence, Rhode Island. The final agenda for the Conference was issued in April 1999. The Conference will include technical sessions, trouble shooting sessions, field trips, and an awards ceremony. Representative from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and New England Interstate are coordinating the event. For more information regarding this event access this Program's web-page at epa.gov/owm/tomm.htm. For more information contact Curt Baranowski at (202) 260-5806.

Biosolids

National Meeting: OWM and the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources are planning a national meeting for Headquarters, Regional, and State personnel involved in all aspects of the biosolids program, including program management and technical support, permitting, compliance, and enforcement. The meeting will be held from June 28-30, 1999, at the Bolger Center in Potomac, MD, outside Washington, D.C. The agenda is currently being developed. Lodging and meals (but not travel) for one representative from each State will be paid for under a grant to the State of Wisconsin. OWM will defray cost of meals and lodging for one person from each Regional office. Additional State/Regional representatives may attend at their own expense. For additional information, contact Ed Gross on (202) 260-7370.

Conference Announcement

OWM, in cooperation with Region 5 and the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission, is co-sponsoring a National Conference on "Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection" in Chicago, February 7 - 10, 2000. The conference will provide participants with practical, applied information on the most effective tools and technology for meeting NPDES permit requirements, and will emphasize the Phase II program's six minimum measures. For more information, see http://www.nipccog.il.us/water_tools_2000.htm or contact John Kosco on (202) 260-6385.

Meetings on Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

Two meetings will be held in St. Louis to consider decentralized wastewater treatment issues. The first is sponsored by the

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National Small Flows Clearinghouse and is a national forum for state-level officials who regulate onsite and decentralized systems. The meeting will take place April 30 through May 2, and will allow officials to consider issues such as alternative technologies, training, inspections, performance codes and comprehensive management programs. The second meeting is sponsored by EPA and is scheduled for May 3 and 4 at the same location. The focus of discussion will be a proposed EPA guidance manual on management programs for decentralized systems. Invitees include representatives of various organizations whose members are directly impacted by decentralized treatment issues. For more information please contact Steve Hogue on (202) 260-5841.

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Training Courses

The SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) Foundation has developed a two day Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) training course as part of its ongoing activities under a cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water (Permits Division). The next offering is at the North Atlantic Regional Chapter on June 23-24, 1999 in Boston, Massachusetts. Please contact Cornelia Mueller at (401) 782-1900 for information at this location or see additional contact information below. SETAC's WET training course schedule is updated periodically and the current course(s) in SETAC's Regional Chapters are listed below. The WET course will cover water quality topics such as Criteria and Standards, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting and enforcement, WET testing and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), as they apply to the WET program. If you would like to request a two day training course for your State, Tribe or group or need more information about the courses or the schedule, please contact Gregory (Greg) Schiefer at the SETAC Foundation at (850-469-1500), by fax (850-469-9778) or by E-mail (setac@setac.org). Alternatively, you may contact Laura Phillips (EPA) at (202)-260-9522.

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC)

Assessing Wastewater Options for Small Communities Course Offered. NETCSC and the St. Louis University School of Public Health will cosponsor two offerings of NETCSC's "Assessing Wastewater Options for Small Communities" in May; the first, May 10-11 in Emporia, Kansas, and the second, May 12-13 in Hastings, Nebraska. Two additional offerings are scheduled: June 17-18 in Denver and July 8-9 in Morgantown, West Virginia. Altogether the course will have had seven offerings this year. The course overviews treatment technology options, financing, Federal and State regulations, how to select a consulting engineer, and effective teaching of adult learners. For more information contact EPA project officer Betty B. Ford 202-260-8510. To register contact Sandy Miller of NETCSC at West Virginia University; P.O. Box 6064; Morgantown, WVA 26506-6064; tel: 800-624-8301 ext 5536.

EPA/WEF Pretreatment Training Courses

Two Pretreatment Training Courses are now offered. EPA Office of Wastewater Management is continuing to co-sponsor Pretreatment Training Courses with Water Environment Federation in 1999 by offering both Fundamentals and Advanced courses.

The Fundamentals (or "Basic") Course is designed to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework on the development and implementation of pretreatment programs. The Course is recommended for environmental professionals responsible for implementing the Pretreatment Program at the local level, for industrial dischargers and consultants, and is especially designed for individuals that are new to the program. The tentative 1999 schedule for this course is: May 24-25 - Albany, New York; July 10-20 - Detroit, Michigan; September 14-15 - Anaheim, California; September 20-21 - Portland, Oregon.

Industrial User Classification & Permitting (or the "Advanced") Course focuses on industrial user identification, classification, and permitting. This course uses problem solving exercises and group discussions to reinforce materials presented in lectures, and is recommended for individuals whom have pretreatment experience and/or that have taken the

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fundamentals course. The tentative 1999 schedule for this course is: June 28-29 - Nashville, TN; July 19-21, Detroit, MI; September 16-17 - Anaheim, CA.

For more information, contact Patrick Bradley at (202) 260-6963.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Proposed Rule on Electronic Reporting in the NPDES Program

EPA is proposing changes to its NPDES regulations to allow reports and other information to be submitted electronically. When EPA promulgated the current NPDES regulations, the Agency did not anticipate the need for electronic reporting. Consequently, the current regulations do not specifically address use of electronic reporting technologies. The proposed rule would establish criteria for electronic reporting and a specific process and conditions for electronic reporting of discharge monitoring reports (DMR) to EPA. The proposal addresses electronic signature, certification, and record keeping requirements that permittees would follow when submitting forms to EPA electronically. We expect to publish a proposed rule in May, 1999. For more information, contact Brian Frazer on (202) 260-0101.

Final Rule for NPDES Municipal Permit Application Forms and Regulatory Revisions

The current NPDES Permit Application regulations and forms would be revised to reflect amendments to the Clean Water Act and changes in program requirements and emphasis. This action would also develop a sewage sludge permit application form and revise permit application regulations to foster the issuance of permits implementing the Agency's standards for sludge use or disposal. The proposal was published in the Federal Register on December 6, 1995. Comment review is complete and we are expecting the final rule in May, 1999. For more information, contact Wendy Bell on (202) 260-9534.

Streamlining the General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution (Proposed Rulemaking #2040-AC58)

The proposal will streamline portions of the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403) to reduce the burden from technical and administrative requirements that affect industrial users, Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and Regional and State Control Authorities. OMB has completed its review of the draft proposal, and we anticipate sending the proposed rule to the Administrator for signature this month. For further information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

Information Collection Request for the National Pretreatment Program

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), EPA is soliciting comments on the continuing Information Collection Request (ICR) for the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403), EPA ICR 0002.08 (expires October 31, 1999), OMB Control Number 2040-009. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection, which are described in the Federal Register notice that was published on April 12, 1999. Comments must be submitted by June 11, 1999. For further information, contact Jan Marie Pickrel on (202) 260-7904.

Section 106 Grant Program - State and Interstate Allotment Formulas

With the support of the States presenting various Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions, EPA has reached consensus on the Clean Water Act, Section 106 State and interstate allotment formulas for FY 2000 and beyond. In

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accordance with the Clean Water Act, EPA is planning to implement the Section 106 State and interstate allotment formulas by promulgating them in a regulation during late April/early May, 1999. For further information contact Carol Crow on (202) 260-6742.

Forest Roads Pilot Permitting Study

EPA, in consultation with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, is considering whether to revise Clean Water Act NPDES permit regulations relative to forest roads. EPA is also developing a pilot NPDES permitting program for forest roads on federal lands. On February 19, EPA completed a draft copy of a background report on existing data concerning the impact of forest roads on water quality and Best Management Practices' (BMPs) effectiveness. EPA, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management have completed review of this draft. The report will be used to guide the workgroup in identifying BMPs for forest roads and mechanisms for encouraging their implementation. For more information, contact Howard Rubin on (202) 260-2051.

OTHER INFORMATION

Final USDA-EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations Released

On March 9, 1999, the Vice President announced the final USDA-EPA Unified National Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs). The Strategy is a major component of the President's Clean Water Action Plan and reflects an extensive public outreach effort by USDA and EPA. The Strategy sets forth a framework of actions that USDA and EPA plan to take, under existing legal and regulatory authority, to minimize the water quality and public health impacts of improperly managed animal wastes while complementing the long-term sustainability of livestock production. The Strategy relies heavily on the stewardship ethic of producers and is based on a national performance expectation that all AFO owners and operators should develop and implement technically sound, economically feasible, and site-specific "comprehensive nutrient management plans" for managing the animal wastes produced at their facilities. Additional information and a complete copy of the Strategy is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/afo.htm>. Paper copies of the Strategy will also be made available in the near future at (202) 260-7786. For more information, call Will Hall at (202) 565-3030.

National Drought Policy Commission

The National Drought Policy Act of 1998 established the National Drought Policy Commission to provide advice and recommendations on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies. Background clearances for Commission nominees will take three to five months so the first Commission meeting is projected for July/August, 1999. Working groups are to have their first meeting during the week of May 3. EPA will be represented on three of the five working groups, which are to prepare a draft report with recommendations to the Commission in the next six weeks. For more information, contact John Flowers on 202-260-7288.

Small Community Team Programs Reported in International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Newsletter

The current issue of ICMA's newsletter SCAN overviews several grant programs managed by Small Underserved Communities Team members. SCAN carries thumb-nail summaries of the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC), the National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC), the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), and the Small Community Outreach and Education (SCORE) program. The newsletter's next issue will highlight several other programs team members manage. SCAN is the newsletter put out by the Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN), an outreach program conducted by the ICMA with funding by EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. For more information, contact Betty B. Ford on (202) 260-8510.

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CWA 104(g)(1) Operator Assistance and Training Activities

The National Operator Trainers' Conference will be held from June 6 through the 9, 1999 in Providence, Rhode Island. The final agenda for the Conference was issued in April 1999 and is posted on the Internet at epa.gov/owm/annoper.htm. The Conference will include technical sessions, trouble shooting sessions, field trips, and an awards ceremony.

Highlights will include Senator John Chaffee's speech on Monday June 7, 1999, which is scheduled from 9:15AM through 10:00AM.

This is the fourth year awards will be given out at the Conference. The awards ceremony will be held on Monday June 7, 1999 from 12:00PM through 1:00PM. The Enthusiasm Award, Spark Plug Award, the Jack Sampson Most Improved Plant Award (first and second place), and Onsite/Oversite Award will be handed out at the ceremony.

Representative from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and New England Interstate are coordinating the Conference events. For more information regarding this event access this Program's web-page at epa.gov/owm/tomm.htm.

Final discussions regarding the New England Interstate's POTW_PAS software package, which is a program that can be used to trouble-shoot problems at small wastewater treatment plants (<5MGD), will be held prior to the National Conference on June 4 and 5, 1999. For more information regarding the software package access this Program's web-page at epa.gov/owm/perana.htm.

In fiscal year 1998, 921 publicly owned treatment plants had enforcement actions taken against them by EPA or the States. Of those 921 facilities flow data was supplied by 584 wastewater treatment plants which discharge less than 5 million gallons per day. EPA took enforcement actions against 123 of these facilities and State environmental agencies took enforcement actions against the remainder. The 104(g)(1) Program assisted 999 small wastewater treatment plants in fiscal year 1998, 890 of those facilities achieved or maintained compliance or improved performance. If the 104(g)(1) Program was not existence, the number of enforcement actions taken against publicly owned treatment works that discharge less than 5 million gallons per day would have approximately doubled for fiscal year 1998.

Please contact Curt Baranowski at 202-260-5806 for information regarding the above-mentioned or 104(g)(1) Program related matters.

Availability of Guidance for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Monitoring and Modeling

The "Combined Sewer Overflow Guidance for Monitoring and Modeling", EPA 832-B-99-002, will be available later this month. This manual explains the role of monitoring and modeling in the development of a CSO control program. It expands the discussions of monitoring and modeling that were included in the EPA's 1994 CSO Control Policy and presents examples of data collection and combined sewer system (CSS) simulations. It is not a "how-to" manual defining how many samples to collect or which flow metering technology to use. The manual is a set of guidelines that provides flexibility for a municipality to develop a site-specific strategy for characterizing its CSS operation and impacts and for developing and implementing a comprehensive CSO control plan. For more information, contact Tim Dwyer at (202) 260-6064.

Publication of Guidance on Discharge Monitoring and Reporting for Storm Water Industrial Permittees

The AGuidance Manual for the Monitoring and Reporting Requirements of the NPDES Storm Water Multi-Sector General

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Permit, EPA 833-B-99-001, is now available. This publication describes the storm water discharge monitoring requirements (visual, analytic and compliance) and analytic monitoring reports required of certain industrial sectors covered by the Multi-Sector General Permit. It will be available on the OWM website and through the OW Resources Center. For more information, contact Bryan Rittenhouse on (202) 260-0592.

Fact Sheet for EPA's Small Community Wastewater Project with the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)

An updated Fact Sheet, "Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), Help for Small Communities" EPA 832-F-99-013, is now available on the OWM website and the Office of Water Resource Center. The Fact Sheet provides a description of the EPA's small community wastewater project, types of communities assisted, types of projects funded, the accomplishments, level of program funding, and the number of communities benefitted from the program. For more information, contact Maria Campbell at (202) 260-5815.

CWSRF FY 2000 Nonpoint Source and Estuary Management Grant Proposal

The Administration is proposing that up to 20% of FY 2000 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Capitalization Grants be available for use as grants, instead of loans, for nonpoint source and estuary projects. The entire allotment of the CWSRF appropriation will be provided to States and Puerto Rico as CWSRF capitalization grants. The CWSRFs may choose to use an amount equal to 20% of their capitalization grants from FY 2000 funds as grants from the CWSRF. Although the grant is limited to 20% of the Federal capitalization grants, the actual funds used to make the grants may come from previous loan repayments, interest earnings, bond proceeds, state match, as well as the Federal grant. If the State chooses to make grants with repayments, interest earnings or bond proceeds, the other Federal requirements applicable to the CWSRF program (cross-cutters) would not apply. This simplifies the use of these funds for small organizations and private land owners, who may find these requirements a deterrent to accepting funding. For more information, contact Stephanie vonFeck at (202) 260-9762, or download the recently developed fact sheet detailing the proposal (<http://www.epa.gov/owm/2kgtrfct.htm>).

Rural Hardship Grants Program

Congress provided \$50 M for grants to small, rural communities for the provision of wastewater treatment. Funds were allotted to States, Territories and Puerto Rico who then identify communities that are eligible for the funding. With the exception of two, all Hardship Grants have been awarded by the March 20, 1999 deadline. Thank you to all Regional staff and management who pulled together to make the awards. The remaining two states have established a schedule to submit their applications to EPA. No new appropriations are anticipated.

Two Successes in Hardship Grants Innovation are North Dakota and Wyoming. These states are planning to provide the funding to Tribal communities and are developing a partnership with the Indian Health Service. EPA has been praised for setting up this program to run concurrently with the existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund in an effort to minimize the administrative workload for the Hardship Grants Program. For more information, contact Stephanie vonFeck at (202) 260-9762.

National Onsite Demonstration Project

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse recently submitted a report to Congress regarding progress and accomplishments under the National Onsite Demonstration Project. The project, funded by Congress through EPA's budget and administered by the Clearinghouse is entering its fifth phase of funding. Begun in 1993, the project has received \$6 million of funding for the purpose of demonstrating alternative onsite and decentralized wastewater technologies and management programs. A broad range of alternative technologies have been installed in the 13 states who are currently participating. Copies of the report may be obtained from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 800-624-8301. For more information, contact Steve

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Hogy (202) 260-5841.

Mexican Border

The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) Board of Directors certified the Heber, California Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project at its public meeting held on March 26, 1999, in Tucson, Arizona. For more information, contact Eliot Tucker at (202) 260-5842.

END OF REPORT